

LadyLike: Living Biblically

You will see that the questions this study poses do not offer the answers. They are designed so that you land in the right zone without being pushed there. There are plenty of wrong answers that the devil, the world, and your flesh would put forward, but there are also a lot of right answers, depending upon your station and situation. Move forward with a firmer eye on Scripture than any other word out there, and you'll be set!

Each week a number of questions will be posted online in this format along with the readings for the week. Since this book is written as short essays, you will be reading or referring to some essays multiple times throughout this study. You may participate in online discussions if you would like on the Immanuel Women's Ministry Facebook Group. You can also email me your questions or thoughts at pmiller@immanuelseymour.com. Blessings on your study.

Week Nine and Ten

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for work you give us to do. May it be blessing to us and to those around us. Give us time each day, Lord, for the study of your Word. Send your Holy Spirit to guide our hearts according to what you have revealed to us in Your Holy Word, and strengthen us in understanding and wisdom, so that we may grow in faith towards you and so that we may also serve our families and neighbors as you would have us do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Read essays on pages 168, 171, 178, 182, 191, 201, and 207; see also page 160.

Questions:

1. It's hard to talk about vanity because it is implicitly vain. Self-reflection quickly morphs into self-absorption. Lutherans like to say that looking in the mirror shows our sins. That's necessary for repentance, which is as important as it gets! But seeing past your own nose makes it possible to look to Christ and see the needs of your neighbors.

—What do you think of yourself? How often do you think about yourself?

—What is a mirror's place in a Christian life?

Read the essay on page 164; see also page 211.

Questions:

2. Being industrious is good, and a long to-do list means there's life to live. But none of these things are better than being still and knowing that God is God. Our list of chores is a daily blessing, and so is our invitation to rest in the house of God and in prayer.

—How do you balance your hardworking Martha with your devout Mary?

—How is the world's idea of relaxation different from the rest God offers us in His Word and Sacraments?

See the essays on pages 191, 194, 201, 204, 207, and 214.

Questions:

3. It's common for us to compare our lives to the lives of others. In Philippians 4:10–12, St. Paul describes how he learned to be content in any situation.

—What harmful effects does comparison have on our attitude and outlook?

—How is it significant to think of contentment as something that must be *learned*?

—What have you learned about contentment from Scripture and/or in your life?

—How did the grass on the “green hill far away” look to Christ from His place on the cross? What does this mean for you, His redeemed?

Read the essay on page 171; see also page 168.

Questions:

4. Celibacy is for some; chastity is for everyone. Regardless of marital status, we are all called to a chaste and decent life. Christians know pornography is bad, but we often roll along with society's acceptance of unchaste or indecent material in books, on screen, and in our conversations. Christians know that a physical affair is a big no-no, but may still enjoy and even encourage inappropriate attention or emotional gratification outside of marriage. S-E-X isn't easy to talk about (or it shouldn't be! Awkward!), but a commandment is a commandment, right?

—What Sixth Commandment sins and temptations to sin are you aware of in your own life? Might some be in your denial zone?

—How does the mirror of God's Law get sexual sin out of your dangerous blind spot?

—Prostitutes' clients are called johns. How does a sexually permissive society push john-like behavior onto people who wouldn't consider themselves johns? How can Christians avoid it?

—How does Christ's care of the woman found in adultery (John 8) sit with you and for you?

Read the essay on page 168; see also pages 171, 178, 186, and 194.

Questions:

5. When we look for guidance and comfort, we shouldn't look to the self-affirmation cloaked in Pinterest-worthy slogans. Many popular maxims are not based in the true promises of God.

—Do you live by Scripture or by inspirational quotes and sayings found on magnets?

—What is the basic message of most popular ideas about personal improvement or encouragement?

—What does God reveal about sin, grace, and His will for your life in His Word?

Read the essays on pages 168, 198, 207, and 218.

Questions:

6. Forgiveness is the legwork of love. Getting along with people isn't always easy, but it is essential in our life together. More than getting along with others, we also have to do all we can to protect others' reputations.

—What does life together look like for Christians?

—How do we love one another as Christ loved us and bear with one another, even when there are personality clashes and conflicting views on life?

—Has someone offended you? How does Jesus invite, command, and help us to respond?

Read the essay on page 160; see also pages 121, 182, and 194.

Questions:

7. A lot of Christians believe that God speaks to them directly about situations they are facing right now. Although some believers in history had this experience (like men who held the offices of prophet or priest in the Old Testament), it is not a promise given to all believers. We also have no way to determine if a voice we think we have heard really belongs to God. The New Testament Church has been spoken to by God's Son (Hebrews 1:1–2).

—What message do we know without doubt that we have received from God?

—What is "Christian freedom"?

—How can we respond in love to people who expect to hear the voice of God personally?

Prayers:

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.